Potentially New FSA IT Systems: Preliminary Assessments

- ## *Appeals Application (Pat Trubia)*

  Basically, it is an MS Access database that is used by only three FSA employees, as a "productivity tool." It resides on a shared drive at FSA, and Pat Trubia controls all access to this shared drive.

  The database is password-protected, and it does contain Privacy Act information (names and social security numbers). The three users copy and paste data from NSLDS into the database occasionally. Eventually, all data from the Appeals Application is transferred to PEPS, but Pat said this was a manual transfer. Pat said that if the Appeals Assessment went down, it would be an inconvenience (data would have to be entered manually), but that it would not affect any other FSA system.

  So . . . this could go one way or another, depending on the level of caution desired. The Appeals Application contains Privacy Act info, and, in a sense, it does "share" data with another application. But, if it's really just a database used by three FSA employees, and it's password-protected . . . it could be a lot of work for just one database. If you want to err on the side of caution, you would make the Appeals Application a new system.

- ## *FSA Coach—Is This the Same as LMS? (If yes, don't worry about it) (John Hsu)*

  Definitely not a system—it's simply a computer-based training module, consisting of PowerPoint slides, that resides on FSA.

- ## *ISIR Database (Jackie Strickland) (Note: Ensure this is documented as a subsystem in CPS)*

  ISIR Data Mart is most likely not a new system--but, we need to make ISIR is covered in the CPS system security plan (currently, it is not, but the plan will be updated soon). We also need to ensure that FAA Access is also covered in the CPS SSP.

  Basically, ISIR is a "front-end" querying/reporting function that takes data from CPS and displays it in user-friendly reports. The users of ISIR are restricted to school officials (ISIR is not accessible to the public). Users access ISIR through FAA Access--either by going directly to the FAA Access website, or by loading EDExpress on their individual workstations, and clicking on the FAA Access link provided by EDExpress. In either case, users must provide a PIN to access ISIR. Schools can only view data for their particular school.

  While ISIR does process and display Privacy Act data, the data itself are stored in CPS.

- *Mellon (Angela Roca-Baker)*

  Initial judgment: Mellon is NOT an application, and does not require further documentation. Mellon is simply a data file that is transferred from Mellon Bank to FSA:
  The file first passes through SAIG, then onto FMS, where it resides. The transfer, which is one-way only (from Mellon to FMS) is done daily. The file contains information about deposits for FEL lenders. Mellon has no users, no Privacy Act data, and does not share data with any other systems. If Mellon were to go down, it would not seriously affect any FSA systems. There is an MOU between the Department of the Treasury and Mellon Bank. Mellon and the data transfer are covered by the FMS SSP.

- *XML Registry (Holly Hyland) (Note: Is there an SSO designated in writing?)*

  XML is a new system, though it will almost definitely be a Tier 0 system. Gave Holly Hyland a list of next steps, along with instructions on how to find the appropriate documents.

- *IMP—DO NOT CONTACT THEM UNTIL BOB I. GIVES GO-AHEAD!! (Molly Wyatt) (Timeline, SSO designation, needs support?)*

- *Popkin (Denise Hill—who is the SSO?)[possibly Sandy England]*

  Popkin is definitely a new system (thought it is similar to the Popkin system used by "Big Ed," and will most likely be a Tier 1 or 2 system. Gave Denise Hill a list outlining next steps, and will meet with her on Feb. 24 to help her complete the preliminary paperwork (CIP survey, Inventory Worksheet), and to review existing documentation for the "Big Ed" Popkin system to see how much of that material can be used in the FSA Popkin documentation.

Questions to Ask:

- Does the system share data with any other system(s)?
- Where is the system located?
- How do users access the system?
    - Is a password required?
- How many users does the system have?
    - Are the users in-house (ED staff only) or outsiders (trading partners, schools, financial community, etc.)?
- What type of data does the system store?
    - Does the system contain any Privacy Act data?

- o Financial data?
- Does the system directly support an existing FSA system?
    - o That is, if this system were to go down, would any other FSA system be disrupted?
    - o For how long could disruption last without detriment to that other system?